

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 15 are presently active in this case, Claim 1 having been amended by way of the present Amendment and Claims 3-9, 11-14, and 16-25 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 10, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa (JP 60-224,558A), optionally considering Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,132,818) in view of Hongo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,190,759). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claim 1 has been amended in a non-narrowing manner to include the phrase "wherein patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols are formed in the film on said material to be marked by the second process," as suggested by the Examiner on page 2, of the Official Action. The Examiner indicated on page 2 of the outstanding Official Action that pattern formation in the cited references occurs in a first process, and thus the references do not teach pattern formation in the second process as claimed in the present application. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 distinguishes over the pending obviousness rejection. The Applicants submit that Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references for the reasons discussed in detail in the Amendment filed on April 15, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Since this issue has been previously considered by the Examiner, as evidenced by the Interview Summary (paper No. 20) and the discussion on pages 2-3 of the outstanding

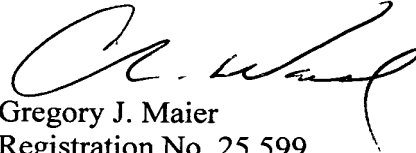
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Official Action, then the Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to Claim 1 set forth herein.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220

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